

**DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
KOREA**

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INTRODUCTION

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is situated at the eastern end of the Asian Continent.

The total area of the territory is 220,791 square kilometres and the population of the whole Korea accounts for more than 30,000,000.

Korea possesses abundant natural resources. The Korean nation had lived as the people of an independent state for thousands of years inheriting its own cultural traditions.

The Korean nation is a homogeneous nation with a single language and original phonetic alphabet of its own.

The occupation and colonization of Korea by the Japanese imperialists at the beginning of the 20th century interrupted the independent development of Korea for nearly half a century.

On August 15, 1945, Japanese imperialism was defeated and the Korean people were emancipated from the yoke of the Japanese imperialist colonial rule.

After liberation, the Korean people founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by themselves.

As to the character of the Republic, Marshal Kim Il Sung, Premier of the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, stated as follows:

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the genuine fatherland of the entire Korean people, which enjoys their whole-hearted support and love. Ours is a genuine people's state, which has not only guaranteed political freedom and rights for the people, but also secures them a happy, material and cultural life. Our state was founded by the people. It is led by the working class, and relies on the united, rallied strength of the entire people on the basis of worker-peasant alliance. And it is a most democratic and stable state providing the broad masses with the opportunities to take part in the affairs of the state."

Following the independence, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gained many successes in the course of independent development.

Today the northern part of the Republic has been turned into an industrial-agricultural state with the firm foundation of a self-reliant national economy.

This booklet gives a general description of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I. HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded on September 9, 1948.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded and has been consolidated and developed through the protracted struggle for the freedom and independence of the Korean people.

For four thousands years of its long history, the Korean nation had consistently preserved their independent state despite uninterrupted foreign invasions.

Even in the period of colonial domination of Korea by Japanese imperialism (1910-1945), the Korean people incessantly waged struggles against the oppression and plunder of Japanese imperialism and for the independence and freedom of the country.

In March, 1919, the Korean people carried out a nation-wide uprising against the Japanese imperialist colonial rule.

The March First People's Uprising was suppressed by the Japanese imperialists.

But even after that, the Korean people never

stopped the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle.

Particularly in the 1930's, the anti-imperialist national liberation struggle of the Korean people embarked upon a new, higher stage.

From then the Korean communists led by Marshal Kim Il Sung unfolded an anti-Japanese armed struggle in the areas around the northern border of Korea and Northeast China.

The Anti-Japanese Partisans continued indefatigable armed struggles against Japanese imperialism and organized and gave guidance to the anti-Japanese national liberation struggle of the Korean people, penetrating deep into the country.

In 1936, the communists established the Fatherland Restoration Association, a broad united front organization embracing all patriotic anti-Japanese forces at home and abroad, and announced the Ten Point Programme which clearly indicated the direction of the national liberation struggle.

The Anti-Japanese Partisans dealt severe blows on the Japanese imperialists, waging numerous battles at Bocheonbo, Moosan and other Korean border towns as well as in the wide areas of Northeast China and within the territory of Korea. Encouraged and led by the Anti-Japanese Partisans, the Korean people vigorously carried out broad mass struggles against the Japanese imperialist colonial rule throughout the country.

The anti-Japanese armed struggle waged by the Korean patriots from the 1930's to 1945 was a

link in the whole chain of the world-wide anti-fascist struggle.

Marshal Kim Il Sung and other patriotic fighters including Kim Chaik, Choi Yong Kun and Kim Il who had been the leading members at the time of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, became guiding nuclei in the construction of a new country after liberation.

The liberation of Korea in 1945 by the Soviet Army from the yoke of the Japanese imperialist colonial rule was the first historic step towards the construction of a free, independent new Korea.

The liberated Korean people founded on their own initiative the people's committees, organs of the people's power.

But the road to be traversed by the Korean people was by no means a smooth one.

The Korean people had to proceed with the construction of a new society with an extremely backward colonial economy and culture they had taken over from old society and with a very few national cadres.

At that time, the internal and external situations were also very much complicated. Notably, the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. army created a great obstacle to the Korean people's struggle for building a democratic, sovereign independent state.

The U.S. Army which landed in South Korea in September 1945, forcibly dissolved the people's committees established by the Korean people themselves and enforced a military government.

Thus the United States started carrying out colonial enslavement policy in South Korea in lieu of Japanese imperialism.

In the light of the situations created in the country after liberation, Marshal Kim Il Sung and his comrades-in-arms proceeded to lay in North Korea the foundation for ensuring the sovereignty and independence of the country.

Land reform, nationalization of industry and other democratic reforms were implemented in North Korea in a short space of time.

As a result, North Korea came to grow into a powerful material force for the independence and unification of the country.

Earlier, in December 1945, the conference of the U.S.S.R., U.S. and British Foreign Ministers held in Moscow adopted a decision on building Korea into a democratic, sovereign independent state. In accordance with the decision, the U.S.S.R.-U.S. Joint Commission was held in Seoul on two occasions in 1946 and 1947 in order to establish the Korean provisional government.

However, the United States unilaterally undermined the work of the U.S.S.R.-U.S. Joint Commission.

In consequence, the road was blocked towards the establishment of a unified Korean government.

In South Korea the United States suppressed all the patriotic forces and manufactured the reactionary separate puppet regime under the U.N. flag by raking up the traitors to the Korean people,

thereby openly manoeuvring to perpetuate the division of Korea.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was born amidst the nation-wide struggle of the entire Korean people against the manoeuvrings of the United States and its puppets to rig up such separate South Korean "government."

As the U.S. machination to perpetuate the temporary division of Korea became open, the North and South Korean people held the Joint Conference of North and South Korean Political Parties and Social Organizations in Pyongyang in April 1948, reflecting their unanimous stand against such machination.

It was only the Syngman Rheeites that did not attend the Joint Conference.

The Joint Conference even attended by the South Korean rightist parties, representing the will of the entire Korean people, unanimously denounced and rejected the U.S. plot to rig up a separate "government" in South Korea and strongly demanded the establishment of an all-Korea unified government.

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists carried out separate elections in South Korea at the point of bayonets on May 10, 1948. And they cooked up a puppet regime headed by Syngman Rhee whom they had brought in from the United States.

Describing the North-South Joint Conference at that time, an American expert on the Korean question, George M. McCune, admitted such U.S. action in his book "Korea Today." He said:

“Upon their return in late April and early May the South Korean delegates, who were outspoken in approval of what they referred to as the moderate views and unquestionable patriotism of the North Korean leaders, reported favourably on conditions in North Korea. However, General Hodge, the American commander, warned the people of South Korea against heeding the counsel of these men and suggested that they were ‘blind men’ who had been ‘baited by the Communists.’ Under the circumstances, the unity efforts of the North and South Korean leaders proved abortive.”

In August 1948, the Korean people held elections of the Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly throughout North and South Korea as a nation-wide measure to stop the perpetuation of the division of Korea by the United States and prevent the country from being reduced to a colony of U.S. imperialism.

In September 1948, the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proclaimed the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Supreme People's Assembly formed the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with Premier Kim Il Sung and other fighters of the anti-Japanese armed struggle as the leading core.

Since the first days of its founding, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has set forth to the South Korean authorities reasonable proposals for realizing the peaceful unification of Korea by

the Korean people themselves without any foreign interference. But the proposals have been rejected.

In June 1950, the U.S. imperialists forced a war upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In the Fatherland Liberation War against the U.S. imperialist war of aggression in Korea, the Korean people fought resolutely for three years and won victory. In their righteous war, the Korean people enlisted active support and assistance from the peoples of the countries in the socialist camp as well as from the peace-loving peoples throughout the world.

The unprecedentedly harsh three-year war in Korea devastated the economy severely and ruined the people's living to the extreme.

When the armistice was concluded in July 1953, nothing but ashes was left for the Korean people.

However, the Korean people never succumbed to the great post-war difficulties.

The Korean people undertook the post-war rehabilitation and construction with the same spirit that had enabled them to emerge victorious from the war.

In 1954 the Three-Year Plan for the Post-war Rehabilitation and Construction of the National Economy (1954-1956) was started.

As the basic line of the post-war economic construction, the Government of the Republic set forth the line of the priority development of heavy industry with simultaneous development of light industry and agriculture.

During the hard post-war period of rehabilitation and construction, the peoples of the Soviet Union, China and other fraternal countries in the socialist camp rendered the Korean people a huge amount of free aids and various other forms of unselfish assistance.

The Korean people waged a determined fight, sparing their pocket.

As a result, the Three-Year Plan for the post-war rehabilitation of the national economy was fulfilled successfully before schedule.

Then, in 1957, the implementation of the Five-Year Plan for the Development of the National Economy (1957-1961) was undertaken.

The Five-Year Plan was overfulfilled as a whole by 1960, that is, in four years.

As a result of the fulfilment of the Five-Year Plan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been converted from a backward colonial agrarian state of yesterday into an industrial-agricultural state with powerful heavy and light industrial bases.

Referring to the successes gained by the Korean people, Thakin San We, Vice-speaker of the House of Representatives of the Union of Burma and head of the Parliamentary Delegation of the Union of Burma that visited Korea in October 1961, stated:

"We are particularly impressed by the second economic plan adopted here in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This plan has enabled your country which had once been under the heel of an imperialist power to stand again on your own feet

within a short space of 15 years... The advancement made in all the sphere of industrial and social progress has been truly identical with lightning speed of Chullima. In this respect the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is very fortunate to have its great leader Marshal Kim Il Sung who leads the country not only through the wars but also through peace.

"Your country is an industrial as well as an agricultural country...

"Your country has adopted compulsory education and we have noted that a large number of scholarship and school uniforms are given to children by the Government.

"Another remarkable thing we have noticed here is the preservation of your age-old culture."

Today in North Korea, the Korean people have materialized a happy society through protracted, arduous struggles and trials.

II. STATE AND SOCIAL SYSTEM

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a genuine people's state which was founded by the people themselves and which serves the people, the first of the kind in the history of our country.

As is provided for in the Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the sovereignty of the Republic rests with the people.

The people exercise the sovereignty through their representative organs, that is, the Supreme People's Assembly and the local people's assemblies of all levels.

These organs are established by democratic elections held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot and are composed of the genuine representatives of the people.

The Supreme People's Assembly is the highest organ of power in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The legislative power is exercised exclusively by the Supreme People's Assembly.

At present, of the Deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Re-

public of Korea, 39.1 per cent are workers and 31.6 per cent peasants.

During the adjournment of the Supreme People's Assembly, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly is the highest organ of power.

The highest executive organ of the state power of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the Cabinet.

The Cabinet is formed by the Supreme People's Assembly. The courts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are composed by elections.

The Prosecutor General of the Supreme Prosecutor's Office is appointed by the Supreme People's Assembly.

All the state organs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea composed by such democratic methods are made up by the true representatives of the people.

Marshal Kim Il Sung and other leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea such as Choi Yong Kun, Kim Il, Pak Keum Chul, Kim Chang Man and Li Hyo Soon, were either the leaders of the anti-Japanese armed partisan struggle or the organizers and leaders of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle at home linked with the armed struggle.

All the ministers and vice-ministers, heads of major industrial organs, presidents of institutes of higher learning, etc., are either the former participants of the anti-Japanese armed struggle and the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle at home or the national cadres from workers, peasants and in-

telligentsia newly brought up under the people's power after liberation.

All the power organs of the Republic elected by the people set it as their basic duty to ensure the broad popular masses political freedom and rights, always serve the people and carry out their activities relying on the people at all times.

The people of the Republic take active part in the state affairs also through their varied social organizations such as trade unions, Democratic Youth League and Democratic Women's Union.

Thus in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, every citizen over 18 years old, irrespective of sex, nationality, religious belief, duration of residence, property status and education, has the right to elect and to be elected, and is fully ensured democratic rights—freedom of speech, press, assembly, demonstration, association and religious belief.

The political freedom and rights of the citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are supported by their abundant material life.

Rooted among the people and relying on their firm support, the people's government has all along been a powerful means of materially guaranteeing the people a free, happy and new life.

In North Korea where the people have become the masters of the country, every citizen is equal in all the political, economic, and cultural fields of social life, and possesses the possibility of giving full play to his individuality and ability.

Each citizen is ensured by the state the right

to employment as well as the right to get equal pay for equal work.

Unemployment and poverty have long since been eliminated in North Korea where the aim of production is to fully meet the growing demands of the people and where the results of labour are distributed to the working people themselves.

Factory and office workers are guaranteed eight-hour workday and paid holidays every year.

Factory and office workers enjoy regular vacations at the widespread network of rest-homes and sanatoria run by the state.

In 1960, the number of rest-homes and sanatoria increased to 947 per cent as compared to 1953.

Citizens who are incapacitated by age or disease are rendered material assistance by the state social insurance.

The people's government enforced the law on the equality of sex to guarantee the women equal rights as men, and in addition, it has granted mothers maternity leave and established numerous creches and kindergartens so as to actively ensure the social activities of women.

Old people's homes are established for the aged who have no one to rely on.

Furthermore, for the promotion of the public health, a system of free medical treatment is in force for the whole people.

For children at school age and the rising generation, the state is enforcing universal compulsory middle school education free of charge, and the students of specialized schools and institutes of higher learning are granted stipends by the state.

Thanks to such system, the people now have no worries about the question of food, clothing and housing or education of their children.

The state allocates a stupendous amount of expenditure to ensure the freedom of activities of science, literature and art and develop them.

These democratic rights and freedom as stipulated in the Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and guaranteed by the state open up a broad avenue for the infinite promotion and development of the people's creative zeal and ability and for freedom of individuality and the spiritual efflorescence and physical advancement of each citizen.

The system of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is one that respects and values everything progressive of the past and present in Korea and turns all that is beautiful and excellent in Korea into the possession of the people to serve for their new, happy life.

The Korean people set great value on this good system which has provided them with a hope-filled, happy, new life and which promises them a bright future.

III. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ECONOMY

The Korean people were inherited with a centuries-old backward colonial economy when they were liberated from the yoke of the Japanese imperialist rule in 1945.

During its colonial domination, Japanese imperialism had converted Korea into a sheer source of raw materials, into a market for its commodities, and strictly checked the development of national industry in Korea.

Even according to the minimized figure published by Japanese imperialism, Japanese monopoly financial groups held over 93 per cent of the total capital in Korea and the Japanese government and landlords occupied most of the best cultivated land in Korea.

The insignificant industry set up in Korea during the Japanese imperialist rule was an appendage to the Japanese industry for raw materials; it was a onesided one without the process of finishing products and was based on an extremely backward technique.

Even this was severely destroyed by Japanese imperialism at the time of its defeat.

Upon the Korean people who held power in their hands after liberation was devolved the important task of restoring the destroyed economy as fast as possible and eliminating the colonial one-sidedness and backwardness of economy so as to build up an independent national economy.

For the fulfilment of this task the Korean people exerted tense efforts for several years, and had completed the rehabilitation of economy in the main and entered a stage of new development, when they were subjected to the armed invasion of the U.S. imperialists.

Everything was destroyed by the harsh war from 1950 to 1953.

On the city of Pyongyang alone, the U.S. imperialists showered more than 400,000 bombs, or approximately one bomb for every inhabitant.

At the time of armistice, "there was not a perfect brick left" in Pyongyang, as a foreign correspondent put it.

The war destroyed or burnt down over 8,700 factory buildings and production establishments, 600,000 dwelling houses, more than 5,000 schools and thousands of public health, cultural and welfare establishments in North Korea.

The damage is calculated at 4,200,000,000 won or six times as much as the national income in the pre-war year of 1949.

The Korean people had not even a ton of structural steel, cement or chemical fertilizers available for rehabilitation and construction, and food and clothing were extremely short.

The Korean people lost almost all houses and furniture.

When the war was over in 1953, there was literally nothing left for the Korean people but ashes.

They started carrying out the Three-Year Plan for the Post-war Rehabilitation and Development of the National Economy (1954-1956) in very difficult conditions.

The Three-Year Plan was fulfilled successfully. In consequence, the severe scars of the war were healed in the main.

On this basis, the Korean people successfully carried out the Five-Year Plan for the Development of the National Economy (1957-1961).

The main goal of the Five-Year Plan was to lay the foundation of an independent national economy and solve in the main the question of food, clothing and housing for the entire people.

This was, of course, a hard task in the conditions of Korea, for she had been bequeathed with a backward colonial economy and even this was utterly devastated by the war and her territory was divided into the North and South.

The Korean people solved the question, however.

They carried out the vast, arduous task of the Five-Year Plan only in two and a half years in the gross industrial output value and either fulfilled or overfulfilled the production plans in four years by 1960 on all indices.

Thus, North Korea's total industrial production in 1960 grew 7.6-fold over the pre-liberation year

of 1944, although over 10 years out of the 15 years since liberation were taken up by the war and the rehabilitation of the devastated economy.

This is tantamount to producing only in 40 days the total amount of industrial products turned out in the whole year of 1944.

Tremendous progress was made in rural economy, too.

Grain output in 1960 amounted to 3,803,000 tons.

The proportion of industry to agriculture was 69 to 31 already in 1958, and in 1960 it grew to 71 to 29.

Today North Korea is able to provide on its own all the fields of the national economy not only with raw materials, but with various machines and equipment including precision and large-sized machines, and to satisfy on its own the demands of the people for consumer goods and food.

Production Output Volume of Major Industrial Goods

	Production output volume in 1960		1960 as against 1956	1960 as against 1946
Electric power	9,139,000,000 kwh		1.8 times	2.3 times
Coal	10,620,000 tons		2.7 times	8.4 times
Pig iron and granulated iron	872,000 tons		3.8 times	285 times
Steel	641,000 tons		3.4 times	127.2 times

Chemical fer-				
tilizers	561,000	tons	2.9 times	3.6 times
Cement	2,285,000	tons	3.8 times	22.2 times
Fabrics	189,000,000	metres	2.5 times	72 times

This means that the foundation of an independent national economy has been firmly established.

Premier Kim Il Sung stated:

“The onesidedness of our industry which had been concentrated solely on the production of raw materials and semi-manufactures and had depended almost entirely on foreign countries for machines and equipment and consumer goods has been eliminated. And our industry does not rely on foreign raw materials, but relies in the main on the domestic natural resources and sources of raw materials. This means that our industry is a solid, self-reliant industry.”

Referring to such successes attained by the Korean people in a very short historical period following the war, French correspondent Jean-Emil Vidal wrote:

“If there is a phenomenon which is called a miracle in the world, it must be the rehabilitation and construction in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, socialist Korea which has revived on the ashes like a phoenix.”

a. Industry

In 1961, the North Korean industry is expected to turn out 9,700 million kwh of electricity, about 12 million tons of coal, 960,000 tons of pig iron and granulated iron, 790,000 tons of steel, over 700,000

tons of chemical fertilizers and about 2.4 million tons of cement.

This means that North Korea has almost overtaken or is surpassing Japan in the economic field, notably in per capita output of major manufactured goods.

Per capita output of major industrial goods in North Korea and Japan is compared in the following table:

item	unit	North Korea	Japan
		1961	1960
Electric power	kwh	970	953
Coal	kg.	1,200	546
Pig iron and granulated iron	kg.	96	127
Chemical fertilizers	kg.	70	80
Cement	kg.	240	241
Catch of fish	kg.	74	54

North Korea entered the period of technical reconstruction when the Three-Year Plan for the Post-war Rehabilitation and Development of the National Economy was completed. In this period, efforts were concentrated, first of all, on building up our own centres of heavy industry, drawing on the rich natural wealth of the country.

As a result, in all heavy industry enterprises the technical equipment was radically improved, advanced production methods and technical processes were introduced on a broad scale, and more shops were erected to produce new products. Along with this, a considerable number of new factories equip-

ped with modern technique were built.

In the ferrous metal industry, an end has been put to the unilateral stress on the production of pig iron. It can now turn out in large quantities various specifications of shaped steel, round steel, sheet steel and special steel, satisfying in the main the growing requirements of capital construction and the machine-building industry for steel materials.

The ore mining industry was further developed, and, at the same time, new smelting and processing facilities were built so as to mine and process various non-ferrous and rare metals.

Tremendous successes have also been achieved in the development of the chemical industry. In the past North Korea had only the inorganic chemical industry which turned out, for the most part, nitrogenous fertilizer.

Today, however, the organic synthetic chemical industry has been created with the establishment of a number of new chemical factories including a vinalon factory with the annual capacity of ten thousand tons and a vinyl chloride factory.

Thus, a solid foundation has been laid for extensively developing all branches of the chemical industry such as plastics, synthetic fibre and synthetic rubber, to say nothing of various chemical fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and medicines, by relying entirely on our own raw material resources.

Fuel and power bases have been further consolidated. The existing power stations such as the Soopoong and Jangjingang Power Stations were fully rehabilitated and equipped on a new technical footing. Large power stations including the Dokro-

gang Power Station were newly erected and medium- and small-sized power stations were built everywhere.

Coal mines, which had been equipped with outdated technique and been developed slowly in the past, were reconstructed and expanded with modern equipment and many new coal mines were exploited, so that we came to meet the demand of the national economy for coal except for coke.

The greatest success achieved in the past period in the field of industry was the establishment of the machine-building industry.

There was no modern independent machine-building factory before, but today we have the base of modern machine-building industry with over 300 machine-building factories of various sizes.

In 1960 the output volume of machine-building industry grew as much as 99 times compared with 1946, immediately after liberation.

In 1960 the share of the machine-building industry in the total industrial output value grew to 21.3 per cent as against 17.3 per cent in 1956, and the proportion of self-supply of machinery and equipment to 90.6 per cent as against 46.5 per cent in the same period. Formerly North Korea could not produce even a spare part properly, but now, it is well in a position to produce on its own not only medium- and small-size machines but also metallurgical and power-generating equipment, various types of heavy machines and equipment and machine tools such as vehicles, tractors, excavators, electric locomotives, 3000-ton presses, 6-metre hobblings, and 8-metre turning lathes as well as large ships.

Light industry, which had been one of the most backward branches in North Korea, also developed in the past period.

The textile industry was further expanded and the food-processing industry and production of daily necessities grew rapidly.

In the textile industry, over 10 large textile mills including the Pyongyang Textile Combine with 100 thousand spindles were newly built or expanded along with a large number of medium and small textile factories, with the result that in 1960 we produced about 190 million metres of fabrics, or 138 times as against the pre-liberation year of 1944.

This means that the per capita output of fabrics increased to more than 18 metres compared to 0.13 metres in the days of Japanese imperialism.

Between 1957 and 1960 the food and favorite goods industries went up 4.2 times, goods for cultural use and household goods 6.8 times.

As for the industry of the daily necessities, we depended upon the Japanese industry for all daily necessities in the days of the Japanese imperialist rule, but we now produce on our own all goods for cultural and household use—sewing machines, clocks, radios, phonographs, bicycles, fountain pens, enamel ware, glass and porcelain ware, vinyl chloride products, etc.

As is evident from the above, the North Korean industry not only has developed at a very high rate, but also has undergone a radical change as regards the composition of its branches, its technical equipment and its distribution of productive forces.

“Power stations, metallurgical works, chemical

factories and other large modern industrial establishments are now being built with materials, machinery and equipment of our own make; the technical reconstruction of the national economy is progressing at a rapid pace, mainly relying on our own heavy industry; and the daily requirements of the people are met with home made consumer goods." (Kim Il Sung)

b. Agriculture

Formerly the North Korean agriculture put too much emphasis on grain production, so backward that it could not even satisfy the requirements of the population for the staple food.

The food situation in North Korea posed itself as a very difficult problem particularly under the circumstances in which North Korea was separated from South Korea, the granary of Korea.

For solving this problem, the Government of the Republic exerted its efforts to convert our villages into a reliable food supply base and a base for supplying raw materials to light industry, by developing agriculture along many-sided lines.

During the war, over 370,000 jungbo of farmland was damaged by the enemy's bombing.

After the ceasefire the Government of the Republic carried out agricultural co-operativization which was of decisive importance in rapidly restoring the damaged rural economy and developing the productive forces of agriculture, and, as it was nearing completion, embarked without delay on the technical transformation of agriculture.

Here, it defined irrigation, electrification and mechanization as the main content of the technical

revolution in the countryside, and concentrated all its efforts on irrigation first.

In North Korea where the rice farming occupies the most important place there are droughts in spring and a long rain in summer. Under such circumstances, it was necessary, first of all, to effect irrigation in order to gather high and safe crops.

During the post-war years, over 10,000 large and small scale irrigation projects have been carried out and 800,000 jungbo of land, 7 times as much as in pre-liberation days, brought under irrigation.

All the paddy-fields are watered and a system of irrigation has been newly introduced in non-paddy fields.

This signifies that the task of irrigation has been basically solved in North Korea and that the long-cherished desire of our peasantry, who had been tormented by drought and flood for thousands of years, has come true.

As in irrigation, a great success has also been attained in the electrification of rural areas.

By constructing medium and small power stations on a wide scale in the countryside along with large ones, we have further promoted rural electrification.

At present, in North Korea electric light goes to 92.1 per cent of the total villages.

It is used widely, not only for lighting but also for motive power for mechanizing various work such as water pumping, thrashing and fodder processing.

Since 1960 when our engineering industry began mass production of tractors and lorries, the mechani-

zation of agriculture has got into its stride, and big success has already been achieved in this field, too.

In 1960 the number of farm machine stations was nearly double compared with 1956. There was a 4.2-fold increase in the total number of tractors in use in the villages and a 10-fold growth in tractor-worked acreage in the same period.

At present our countryside has 14,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. units) and a large number of various other farm machines. There is 0.7 tractor per 100 jungbo (one jungbo approximates one hectare).

As a result of co-operativization of agriculture and consolidation of its material and technical foundation, farm production has shown a steep rise.

Grain production grew considerably in the last few years. In 1960, it was at an all-time high, as much as 3,803,000 tons, that is, a 1.6-fold increase compared with that in the pre-liberation days.

And this year, on the basis of the results achieved the Government of the Republic set the huge target of a million ton increase in grain output over last year and attained the goal successfully. Thus we gathered 4,830,000 tons of grain in 1961.

We have now solved basically the food problem, one of the most difficult problems in the economic construction in North Korea.

In 1959, having witnessed the successes attained by the Republic in the field of agriculture Nora Rodd, a Canadian public figure, wrote as follows:

"How was this miracle accomplished in so short a time? By the correct method and guidance of the Party and the State—State funds for irrigation, for grain and for machinery; for fertilizers and for train-

ing leaders. Back of all, the strong base of heavy industry... Now the food problem has been solved. There are no longer any poor peasants in North Korea."

Besides grain, the output of industrial crops such as cotton and tobacco considerably increased. The foundation for developing animal husbandry, which had been the most backward branch of agriculture, was laid.

Compared with 1956, in 1960 the number of cattle increased by 39 per cent, sheep and goats more than two-fold, pigs by 58 per cent, and rabbits about 18 times.

In fruit growing, 100,000 jungboc of land was brought under cultivation for orchards during the five-year period, with the result that the acreage under fruit trees expanded 6-fold. In 1960, the total output of fruit increased to 150 thousand tons.

c. Education and Culture

One of the greatest successes attained in North Korea after liberation is the development of education and culture and the training of national cadres.

There were few engineers, technicians and specialists before, but, as a result of full scale extension of the network of secondary and higher technical education and the great efforts for the training of national cadres, more than 133,000 of them are now engaged in all fields of the national economy, managing and operating excellently all the state administrative organs and modern factories and enterprises.

When Korea was liberated in 1945, there were 2,300,000 adult illiterates in North Korea. Only 35 per cent of school-age children were enrolled in elementary course and 1.8 per cent in secondary education network.

In 1944, there were only 50 middle schools and 3 specialized schools and there was no institute of higher learning in North Korea. Under the Japanese imperialist rule, the use of the mother tongue in all the schools, even in the primary schools, and learning of the Korean language were forbidden.

After liberation the slave education system was fully done away with and a new national educational system was established on the democratic principle.

At the end of 1946, only a year after liberation, the number of primary schools increased 2-fold and the number of middle school students 41-fold over the pre-liberation days. Illiterates who amounted to more than 2,300,000 were eliminated in the main by the winter of 1948.

The curriculum and programme of teaching were revised completely, so that the students were able to learn and study the history and traditional culture of their own country and arm themselves with scientific knowledge on the development of nature and society.

The Government of the Republic decided to introduce universal compulsory primary education from September 1950 and made vigorous preparations for it. But this was interrupted and educational organs were utterly destroyed by the war.

In the post-war period, the Government of the Republic endeavoured for the development of educa-

tion, while carrying out that arduous task of restoring and constructing the devastated national economy. Thus, in North Korea, compulsory primary education was introduced in 1956, and in 1958, free general compulsory secondary education was enforced, the first of its kind in Asia. At present, preparations are well in progress for compulsory 9-year technical schooling.

Tuition fee has been abolished at all schools, with the result that the entire younger generation has come to receive free education at state expense, the students of higher educational establishments and special schools are even getting stipends from the state.

In North Korea today 2,530,000 students and pupils, or about one-fourth of the population, are receiving education at over 8,000 schools of all grades. There was no institute of higher learning before liberation but now there are 92 of them, where 188,000 students are learning advanced knowledge, science and technique.

As the all-round technical reconstruction of the national economy progressed in North Korea, the requirements for technical personnel increased more rapidly.

As a measure for training them to satisfy the growing requirements of the national economy, the Government of the Republic expanded the network of evening and correspondence schools on an extensive scale, and at the same time opened factory colleges, a new type of institutes of higher learning, so that the working people have the opportunity of re-

ceiving higher education without being severed from production.

At present factory colleges have been set up at over 20 major factories and enterprises with the enrollment of a large number of factory workers on the job. In this way, North Korea is now able to train technical personnel not only in ordinary institutes of higher learning, but also at production sites; and factories and mills serve not only as production centres, but also as bases for training cadres.

Besides, in town and the countryside, all the workers and peasants are unfolding an extensive movement for general raise in their cultural and technical level under the slogan: Let the entire workers and peasants acquire general knowledge of the junior middle school level upwards and master more than one kind of technique.

There are numerous adult primary and middle schools in town and the countryside, nearly one million working people taking lessons.

Managers, chief engineers, engineers, technicians foremen, and work-team leaders in factories and enterprises and agricultural co-operatives, not to say the many leading functionaries at the Centre and in localities, are all new personnel brought up by the Korean people themselves after liberation. But the situation was discouraging before liberation, there were, for instance, only 59 engine drivers in the whole country.

With the development of education, the talent of the Korean people, which had long been trampled down and hurried, is given to full play, and science

and technique as well as national culture are flowering.

In the field of science, thanks to the 16 years of great efforts made for the development of each branch of scientific work, a huge army of scientific and technical personnel including hundreds of members and corresponding members of Academy of Sciences, doctors, professors, associate professors and bachelors has been built up, and they are now solving by themselves scientific and technical problems arising in the course of carrying out the task of all-round technical revolution.

The scientists of the Republic contributed a great deal to the development of the national economy with the completion of vinalon research, solution of the problem of gasifying anthracite, semi-conductor research, research into the method of continuous steel-making from granulated iron, manganese research, etc.

The social scientists are correctly inheriting and developing the time-honoured Korean history, Korean geography and Korean language and literature through the excavation, collection and compilation of the national cultural relics. Ever since liberation, the Government of the Republic has consistently taken over the cultural heritage of the Korean people and developed a new national culture.

In North Korea today, literature and art have become the possessions of the working people and are developing on the basis of 62,000 amateur art circles with millions of working masses participating in them.

All the factories and co-operatives have their own cultural and art circles, their members singing joyfully their creative labour and happy life to their heart's content.

d. People's Living

In the northern part of the Republic the material and cultural life of the people has been improved radically thanks to the rapid development of industry, agriculture and all other branches of the national economy, the elimination of all forms of exploitation and the efflorescence and development of science and culture.

The enhancement of people's welfare can be seen, first of all, in the growth of the national income. With the rapid growth of production in the post-war period the national income increased at a high rate every year, and in 1960, it grew 2.1 times as against 1956.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the national income belongs to the entire people, and is used for the expansion of production and improvement of the wellbeing of the working people. At present, in the Republic, about one-fourth of the national income is earmarked for accumulation and about three-quarters goes to the working people for their personal consumption.

On the basis of the growth of the national income, the Government of the Republic effected wage rise for the factory and office workers on four occasions and reduction of retail prices on seven occasions in the post-war period in order to promote the

welfare of the people while ensuring large-scale capital investment for the expansion of production.

Consequently in 1960, the factory and office workers got 2.1 times as much real wages as in 1956. Their wages are enough to secure a wealthy and stabilized life for them.

Today all our people have jobs and are supplied with sufficient food by the state at a low price tantamount to a handling fee.

During the post-war years, modern houses with a total floor space of 24.65 million square meters for 600 thousand households have been newly built in town and the countryside so that factory and office workers are provided with nice, cozy flats by the state.

The house rent, including the charges for electricity and water supply, makes up no more than 3 per cent of their wages.

Factory and office workers are supplied with clothes by the state.

Women not only get the equal wages with men for equal labour, but also receive special benefits from the state including 77-days of paid maternity leave.

A radical change has also been made in the life of the peasants.

The Government of the Republic always coordinates properly the living standards of the workers and peasants so that there may be no great difference between them.

Before liberation, the Korean peasants were even deprived of their own food because of high farm rents and miscellaneous taxes, and were always afflicted with hunger and poverty.

But now, the co-operative farmers in North Korea enjoy their life full of happiness and hope.

The year's harvest yields of the agricultural co-operatives are distributed according to the quantity and quality of the work performed.

In 1961, the share of grain averaged 2 tons and 700 kg and cash income about 400 won per household of the agricultural co-operatives.

This signifies an increase of 2.2 times in grain and 7.1 times in cash income as compared with 1955.

Thus, the livelihood of all the peasants has reached the level of middle or well-to-do middle peasants.

In the North Korean countryside a large number of attractive, modern dwelling houses are built year after year, and mud huts in which our peasants had lived for thousands of years disappeared forever.

School houses, clubs, nurseries, kindergartens and clinics were built and various service establishments expanded everywhere in the countryside to serve for the cultural life of the co-operative peasants.

Thus, not only the problem of meeting the people's requirements for food, clothing and housing has in the main been solved, but also the supply of goods to the working people improved in general.

Compared with 1956, in 1960 the turnover of retail goods increased 3.1 times, of which a 2.5-fold increase in foodstuffs and 3.7-fold in non-foodstuffs.

All the North Korean shops sell home products made of domestic raw materials.

The working people in North Korea enjoy enormous state and social benefits in addition to the income from their labour.

In 1960 the expenditure for social and cultural

services in the state budgetary outlays was approximately 460,000,000 won, or 4 times that in 1956.

The universal system of free medical service has been set up and the people are free once and for all from worries about medical care.

In 1960, the number of doctors and hospitals increased to 547 per cent and 526 per cent respectively compared with 1946, immediately after liberation.

In 1960, the death rate of the population dropped by half and the average span of life was prolonged by 20 years compared with the years of Japanese imperialist rule.

In the beauty spots of the country numerous sanatoria and rest homes are set up for the working people and hundreds of thousands of working people take pleasant rest there every year at state expenses.

The number of nurseries and kindergartens maintained at state and social expenses are increasing with every passing day, and there about 700,000 children are being taken good care of.

The wages of the factory and office workers and the income of the peasants increase constantly, whereas their tax levies are decreasing steadily.

In 1960, of the total state budgetary revenue, the tax revenue from population was no more than 2.1 per cent and even this will be completely abolished in the coming few years.

Per Eriksson, a Swedish public figure, said:

"...The raising of the material as well as the cultural standard is obvious everywhere" ("My Travel in Korea" by Per Eriksson).

IV. NEW PROSPECTS

New vistas have opened up before the Korean people who have achieved brilliant successes in the social changes as well as in the economic and cultural construction.

The Fourth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in September 1961, set forth grand prospective tasks of the Seven-Year Plan (1961-1967) for the Development of the National Economy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The fundamental task of the Seven-Year Plan is to carry out the overall technical reconstruction and cultural revolution and radically to improve the living standard of the people as a whole to the height of the advanced countries, relying on the firmly built foundation of the national economy.

To achieve this task, the total industrial output value will increase annually by 18 per cent on an average during the Seven-Year Plan period. Thus, compared with 1960, it will grow about 3.2 times in 1967, of which a 3.2-fold increase in the production of means of production and a 3.1-fold in consumer goods.

The production of the major industrial goods in 1967, the last year of the Seven-Year Plan, will attain the following level:

Item	Envisaged volume of production in 1967	Rate of increase as against 1960
Electric power	17,000 million kwh	2.4-fold
Coal	25 million tons	2.4 „
Pig iron and granu- lated iron	2.3 „	2.7 „
Steel	2.3 „	3.6 „
Chemical fertilizer	1.7 „	3 „
Cement	4.3 „	1.9 „
Fabrics	500 million metres	2.6 „
Marine products	1.2 million tons	2.5 „

Then, industrial production will surpass the level before the Korean war more than 20-fold, and we will turn out in thirteen days the total industrial output of 1944, the closing year of the Japanese imperialist rule.

During the Seven-Year Plan period, industry will further perfect the structure of industrial production and set up a system of self-supporting industry which is comprehensively developed, fully equipped with latest technique and possesses a stable raw material base of its own.

During the Seven-Year Plan the demands for non-ferrous rolled goods will be met by the domestic production and the domestic demands for chemicals needed for industry and rural economy will be satisfied in the main.

Not only the demands for mining machines, metallurgical and chemical equipment, electrical machines and other heavy industrial equipment,

various types of light industrial equipment, building machines and transport facilities which are needed for the all-round technical reconstruction will be satisfied, but also larger quantities of tractors and farm machines, boats and other fishing equipment for the mechanization of agriculture and fishery will be produced.

During this period, more machines and equipment of various new types including heavy machines and precision instruments will be devised and manufactured, particularly, production of different kinds of gauges, electron tubes and static electrical machines needed for the technical progress and automation of national economy will be stepped up rapidly.

During this period, the quality of light industry goods will rapidly catch up with that of advanced countries, the entire population will be fully provided with various kinds of fabrics, and any household goods needed for the cultural life of the working people will be produced and supplied in abundance.

A new, epoch-making change will be brought in the field of rural economy, too.

During the Seven-Year Plan, overall mechanization will be carried out throughout the countryside—from plains up to mountainous areas—and main farm work such as plowing, sowing, interrow weeding, harvesting and thrashing as well as stock-breeding and transportation will be mechanized.

The number of tractors will be increased from 14,000 at present to more than 80,000 in 1967.

During the period a great nature-remaking will be carried out.

Under a far-reaching programme for acquiring one million jungbo of new land within the coming ten years, tideland along the west coast, hills throughout the country and northern plateaus will be extensively reclaimed.

Thus, we will bring under the plough 500,000 jungbo of more land in the Seven-Year Plan period so that the acreage of arable land will reach 2,500,000 jungbo altogether.

Along with mechanization, by the realization of application of chemicals in agriculture, the arduous, difficult labour in farming will be eased and the harvest yield will be decisively increased.

As a result of all such economic and technical measures, the total output of grain will increase to a 6,000,000-7,000,000 ton mark towards the end of the Seven-Year Plan period. Then we will not only solve finally the food problem in North Korea, but also build a firm foundation for speedily developing all branches of agriculture.

In the period stock-breeding will develop on a large scale.

Pomiculture and sericulture along with the cultivation of all industrial crops will develop greatly.

The acreage under fruit will be increased to 350,000 jungbo by creating over 200,000 jungbo of orchards through reclamation of hillsides, and in 1967, over 500,000 tons of fruits will be turned out so that the population may be supplied with various fruit in all seasons.

The acreage under mulberry trees will be increased to 100,000 jungbo by reclaiming another 40,000 jungbo of hillsides with the aim of developing sericulture to produce more silk fabrics of high quality.

Along with this, the work of creating the forests of economic value will be carried out extensively in the whole country.

All-round technical reconstruction of the national economy demands epochal progress in the field of science.

In the field of science, the work will be carried out for raising our scientific development as a whole up to the world level in the near future by assimilating constantly scientific achievements attained by progressive mankind including research work for introducing atomic energy into production. Science will make a positive contribution to the realization of all the grand tasks: to carry out mechanization in all branches of the national economy including agriculture, and comprehensive mechanization and automation in some sections and the electrification of the country.

In the field of education and culture, on the basis of the successes made in the enforcement of the compulsory middle school education, 9-year compulsory technical education will be fully introduced during the Seven-Year Plan period and 460,000 technicians and secondary specialists will be trained.

In addition, about 180,000 engineers and specialists will be trained by strengthening higher education.

The total students of schools of all levels will reach over 3,100,000, of whom the students of higher educational establishments alone will exceed 220,000 in 1967.

More literary and artistic works will be created and the heritage of national arts further taken over and developed, so all that is beautiful and progressive inherited from our ancestors may come into full bloom.

Needless to say, during the Seven-Year Plan period the material and cultural life of the people will be radically improved. During this period, we envisage a 2.7-fold increase in the national income, and in 1967 it will surpass the level before the Korean war 9 times.

Real incomes of factory and office workers are expected to rise 1.7-fold during the Seven-Year Plan period, and real incomes of peasants, too, will increase more than two-fold during the same period, their living standard as a whole reaching the level of well-to-do middle peasants.

During the Seven-Year Plan period, the Government of the Republic will do away once and for all with the tax system and completely free the people from the burden of all taxes.

The turnover of retail commodities in town and country is expected to grow 3.2 times during the Seven-Year Plan period, and it will meet the growing, diverse demands of the people.

During this period, it is also planned that flats for 600,000 households will be built in towns and workers' settlements and 600,000 dwelling houses in the rural areas.

Additional benefits to the working people from the state budgetary expenditure will also grow on a huge scale.

It will make possible to pay more subsidies and pensions to the working people, and increase the number of working people who take rest free of charge at the state owned rest homes, sanatoria and summer camps.

In the field of public health, the section doctor system, an advanced medical service system, will be set up during the Seven-Year Plan period.

Towards the end of the Seven-Year Plan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will turn into a wealthy and powerful country with its modern industry and advanced agriculture, a civilized state where science and technique will flourish brilliantly, and a country where the life of the people will be abundant, and culture and art will bloom still more beautifully.

The implementation of the Seven-Year Plan means to lay a solid foundation for unifying the country peacefully and restoring the devastated South Korean economy after the unification.

Today, South Korea, contrary to North Korea which develops with every passing day, faces catastrophic crisis in every field of society.

As a result of the 16 years of colonial rule by the U.S. imperialists, the national economy and culture of South Korea have suffered total decline and ruin.

The South Korean industrial production decreased to two-thirds of that in the days of the

Japanese imperialist rule which was already insignificant.

In 1960, compared with that of North Korea the per capita industrial output of South Korea was merely one-eleventh in electricity, one-one hundred and fiftythird in pig iron, one-thirtysecond in steel and one-thirteenth in cement.

In 1960, compared with that of North Korea economy has been further ruined.

At present the South Korean "economy has slumped to the lowest level since the Korean war. Many plants were closed down, the rest are operating only with 10-20 per cent of capacity" (Seoul, July 31, 1961, UPI).

Thus, as of the end of September 1961, the production index of mining and manufacturing industries decreased by 8.3 per cent compared with that at the time of the "military coup" in May, of which that of manufacturing industry as much as 12 per cent (**Radio Seoul**, October 20, 1961).

The rural economy of South Korea which was a granary in the past days, has also been devastated to the extreme.

The arable land has been reduced by 200,000 jungbo, the sown area by 400,000 jungbo and the grain output by one-third as against the pre-liberation days.

Before liberation South Korea was "a granary which exported 5-10 million suk of grain every year" (South Korea **Economic Yearbook**, 1949). But today it has been changed into an area of chronic famine importing more than 5 million suk of grain every year.

The devastation of the national economy in South Korea has severely ruined the people's living.

Now, over 6 million fully and partly unemployed are wandering about the streets in search of jobs and over one million households of the foodless peasants are driven to the brink of starvation every year.

Even the workers with jobs are ground down by starvation wages less than one-third of the minimum living expenses.

The same wretched plight prevails in the field of education, culture and arts in South Korea.

South Korean schools have been turned into training grounds to supply cannon-fodders to the U.S. imperialists.

With the steady inroad of the American way of life and Yankee culture, the national culture and art are being entirely trampled down and obliterated in South Korea.

The ancient cultural treasures of Korea have been destroyed or plundered by the U.S. imperialist aggressors. The immorality, corruption and degeneration of society have reached the extreme.

Robert Guillain, French "Le Monde" correspondent in Tokyo, gave some idea of the present miserable situation of South Korea in his travel sketches under the title "Unimaginable Poverty and Hunger" which was carried by Japanese paper **Asahi Sinbun** on July 10-11, 1961. He said:

"...It seemed to me that unimaginable poverty was filled to overflowing everywhere despite the beautiful landscape... The places I had visited were all suffering from the 'spring poverty'.

"In this season, the South Korean farmers take only one meal a day. They take plain porridge of barley and grass... South Korea thought she had attained freedom after protracted oppression in 1919, 1945 and 1960 but her hopes were dashed to pieces on all the three occasions...

"Seoul was built to house 800,000 inhabitants, but now, its population has snowballed three times...

"But in the recent 15 years, the incompetent government has done nothing to provide the swelling population with houses, drinking water and electricity.

"...The hillocks around Seoul were crowded with primitive dugouts. The sanitary condition was really shocking...

"All the social institutions are so backward that they have to be rebuilt from the roots..."

The broad popular masses of South Korea have come to realize all the more keenly through their own experience that they can not free themselves from the present miserable plight and colonial slavery, unless they compel the U.S. troops to withdraw from South Korea and unite the country peacefully at the earliest date, unless they rely on the firm self-supporting national economy built up in North Korea, and they are fighting to that end.

In April 1960, the Syngman Rhee regime was overthrown as a result of the uprising of the South Korean people, and the foothold of the colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists in South Korea was shaken to its foundation. Unable to cope with the situation even by the Chang Myun "regime" they

rigged up in place of Syngman Rhee's, the U.S. imperialists and South Korean reactionaries who were driven into a tight corner, have taken the adventurous course of setting up a fascist military dictatorship in an attempt to maintain their precarious rule.

Today in South Korea under the fascist dictatorship, even a trace of democracy is trampled down and blotted out.

However, the more the oppressors intensify their frenzied suppression, the more vigorously the South Korean people who seek the way of living wage the struggle for the right to live, for freedom and the peaceful unification of the country.

CONCLUSION

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea keeps on marching forward, at the speed of "Chul-lima".

No force in the world can stop the onward march of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The U.S. imperialists, who are afraid of the reality of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that forms so sharp a contrast with the appalling reality of South Korea under their colonial domination, obstruct peremptorily the holding of free general elections throughout North and South Korea for the peaceful unification of Korea.

For fear that the reality of the flourishing and developing Democratic People's Republic of Korea should come to the knowledge of the popular masses of South Korea, the U.S. imperialists hinder stubbornly even postal exchange between parents, brothers, wives, children, relatives and friends, who have lived separated in the North and South for 16 years without hearing from each other, not to speak of free travel and intercourse between North and South Korea.

But the U.S. imperialists will not be able to continue to run wild for long.

Time will give an answer to that sooner or later.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will continue to wage the persistent struggle to consolidate peace in Korea against the U.S. imperialist aggressive policy and to unify Korea peacefully by way of conducting all-Korea free elections on the democratic principles without any foreign interference.

At the same time the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will consistently strive to consolidate peace in the Far East and the world together with all peace-loving countries.